

19 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Entertainment Question

1. I need to clarify the operative ground rules under which my colleagues should operate with respect to a fairly delicate topic: official entertainment of U.S. Government employees. I am not asking for authority to do -- or have my associates do -- anything illegal or contrary to Agency policy. I do, however, need some guidance.

2. As you will recall, from the time we first discussed the concept of an NIO and an NIO panel, you have stressed the importance of NIOs circulating both in the Community of policy-level consumers and that of senior line officers with command responsibilities among the producing elements of the intelligence fraternity. Clearly, one of the easiest ways to perform this function is to invite Assistant Secretaries, senior NSC staffers, DIA Division Chiefs, etc., over to the Agency for lunch in the Executive Dining Room or -- even better (when it is free) -- in the DCI's private dining room. Such a setting provides an atmosphere eminently conducive to developing the kind of relationship desired. Such action, however, also clearly involves the "entertainment" of one U.S. Government official by another and therein lies the problem.

3. I understand from discussions at the Executive Committee and from conversations with Ben Evans and the AO/DCI that this whole question of entertaining other U.S. Government officials at Agency expense is under review by the Management Committee and is one on which you have expressed strong general opinions, largely negative. For this reason, I am seeking authoritative

counsel that I can pass on to my colleagues. Obviously any exercise of a right to use Agency funds for the entertainment of other U.S. officials will call for a large dose of continuing good judgment and must be handled with considerable care to prevent abuse or even the appearance of abuse. On the other hand, I am quite diffident about urging my colleagues to engage in certain activities in the performance of their duties and then later telling them the cost of such activities has to be defrayed out of their private pockets. Therefore, I would very much appreciate your guidance on the kind of instructions I should pass along to my associates.

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Deputy for National Intelligence Officers